

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A temperature control operation for a fixing device is performed based on a vertical synchronous signal  $V_{sync}$  periodically outputted in association with a cycling motion of an intermediate transfer belt. Furthermore, the temperature control operation provides a constant time difference  $\Delta t_1$  between a leading edge of the vertical synchronous signal  $V_{sync}$  and a start of energization of a heater. Therefore, a period of the vertical synchronous signal  $V_{sync}$  coincides with a period of the temperature control operation corresponding to each vertical synchronous signal  $V_{sync}$ . In addition, a constant time period is provided between the start of energization and an actual arrival of a recording medium at a nip and hence, the temperature of a heating roller can be maintained at an optimum level during the passage of the recording medium through the nip.

(Fig.5)